August 1999: The two pictures above show our new home at 2133 W. Alluvial in Fresno as we saw it when we purchased the property. This view is from the entrance foyer looking to the east.

After taking possession of the house, we spent about six weeks remodeling the entire interior. The next pictures show the progression of work from the same view as seen above.

Above right, you see the interior walls that separate the living room, dining room, laundry room, family room and kitchen. With the exception of one wall, they were all removed to open the space up to a width of about 65 feet.

In this picture you can now see through to the east wall of the family room/kitchen area. Behind the former built-in bookcase was a laundry area which was moved to a new room constructed off the master bedroom. Notice that there is a post, not an adobe column, where the walls previously met.

The built-in cabinet between the living room and dining room had been recessed into the adobe column it adjoined. After we removed it, the column's adobe bricks could not be restored, so the entire column was torn down. Two new adobe columns were then built to match the other two original columns at the west end of the living room.

Still looking east, the two new adobe columns can be seen in the background, while the two original columns are in the foreground. This was the day our furniture was being delivered after four months in storage, but it would still be two weeks before we could actually move in.

After the contruction and painting was completed, new wall-to-wall carpet was installed and our oriental rugs could be layed out and enjoyed!

The pictures below show the length of the room looking towards the east wall from the entrance foyer. These pictures were taken at night to show some of the dramatic lighting effects we can achieve with over 100 track lights installed throughout the house.

October 18-22, 1999
Family trip to Las Vegas, NV

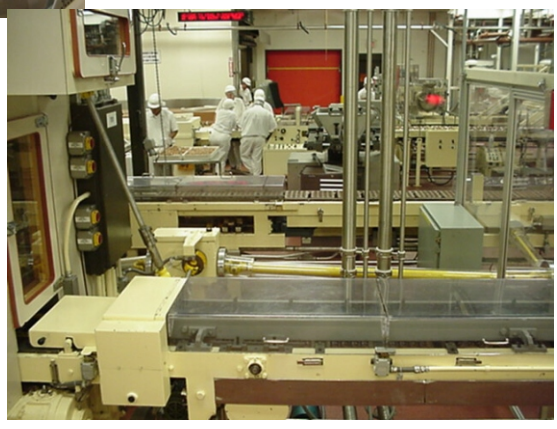
Bellagio reception area featuring hand-blown glass flower ceiling

Bellagio Resort Flower Conservatory

Bellagio's casino

The Venetian, with the Mirage's volcano in the foreground

Sharon & Grandma at the Ethel M chocolate factory in Las Vegas



Ethel M's Desert Botanical Garden

White tigers and other animals at the Mirage Resort

Sharon and Grandma lose $20 apiece in 90 seconds.

In the lobby of the Mirage Resort

Pirate ship battle at
Treasure Island Resort

The Venetian Resort

Sharon and her Mom in Venice!

Sharon, Grandma, Alexis and Mary Ann taking a ride down the canal with their hand-picked, singing gondolier.

The Mirage, seen from the Venetian

On the terrace of the Venetian Resorttt

Gary, Marc, Sharon and Grandma visiting Hoover Dam

From the bottom looking up on the Hoover Dam tour

Red Rock Canyon, on the outskirts of Las Vegas -- October 21, 1999

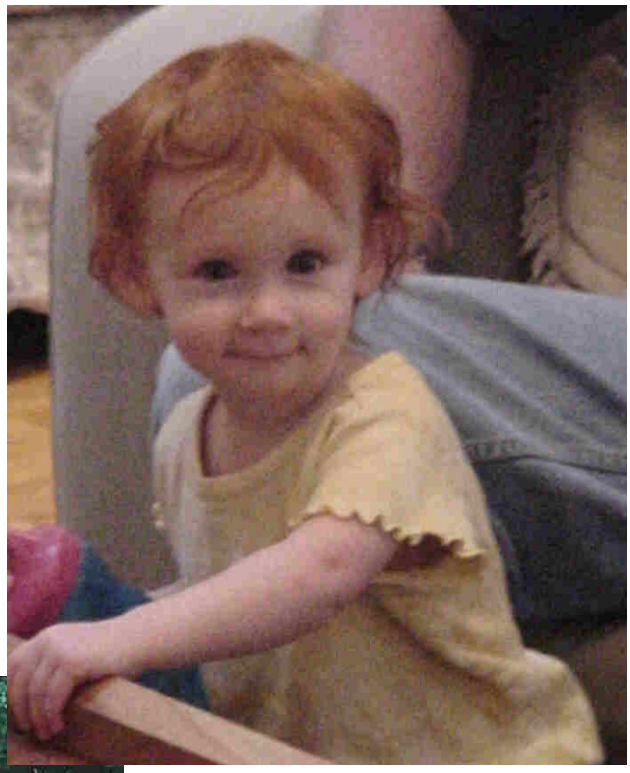
Red Rock Canyon

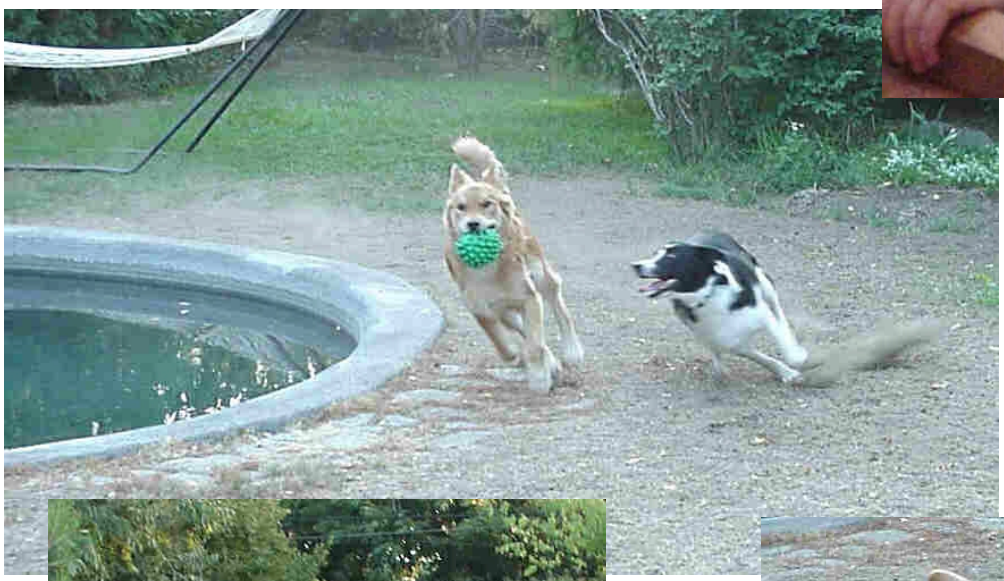
On the way home to Fresno via Death Valley National Park, CA

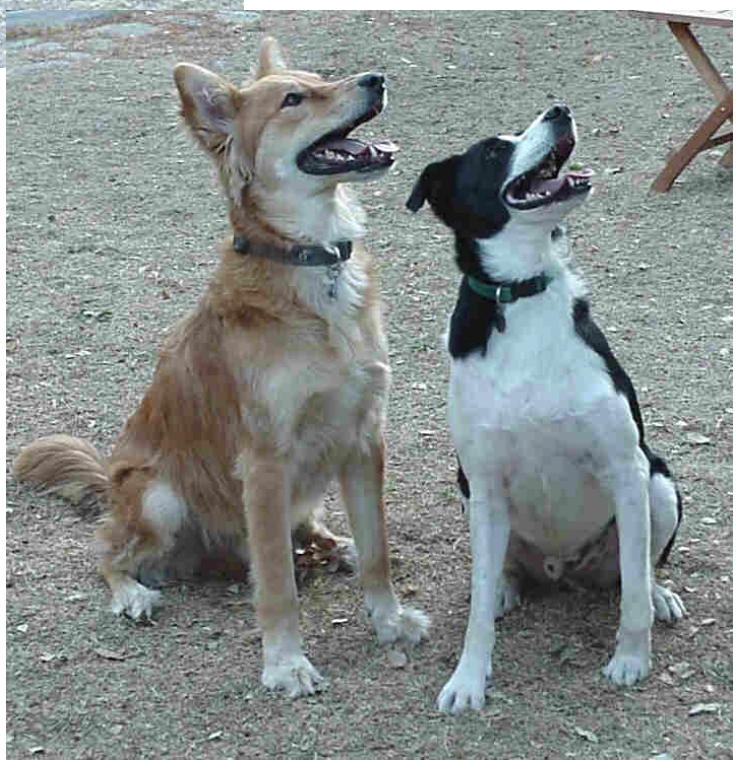
Badwater, D.V.N.P. At 282 feet below sea level, this is the lowest point in the western hemisphere.

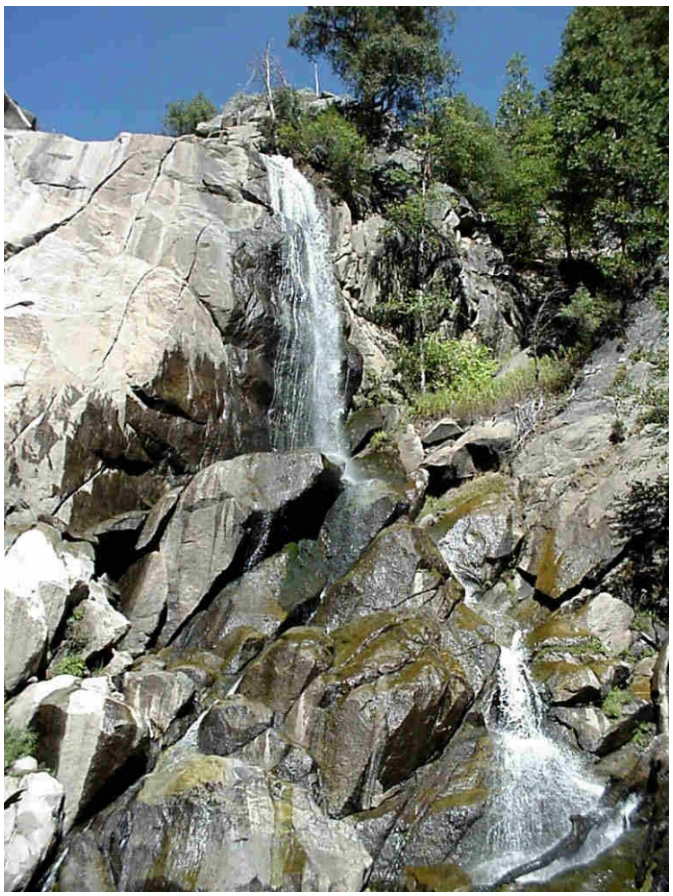
Artist's Palette, D.V.N.P. The colors are formed by various irons and minerals.

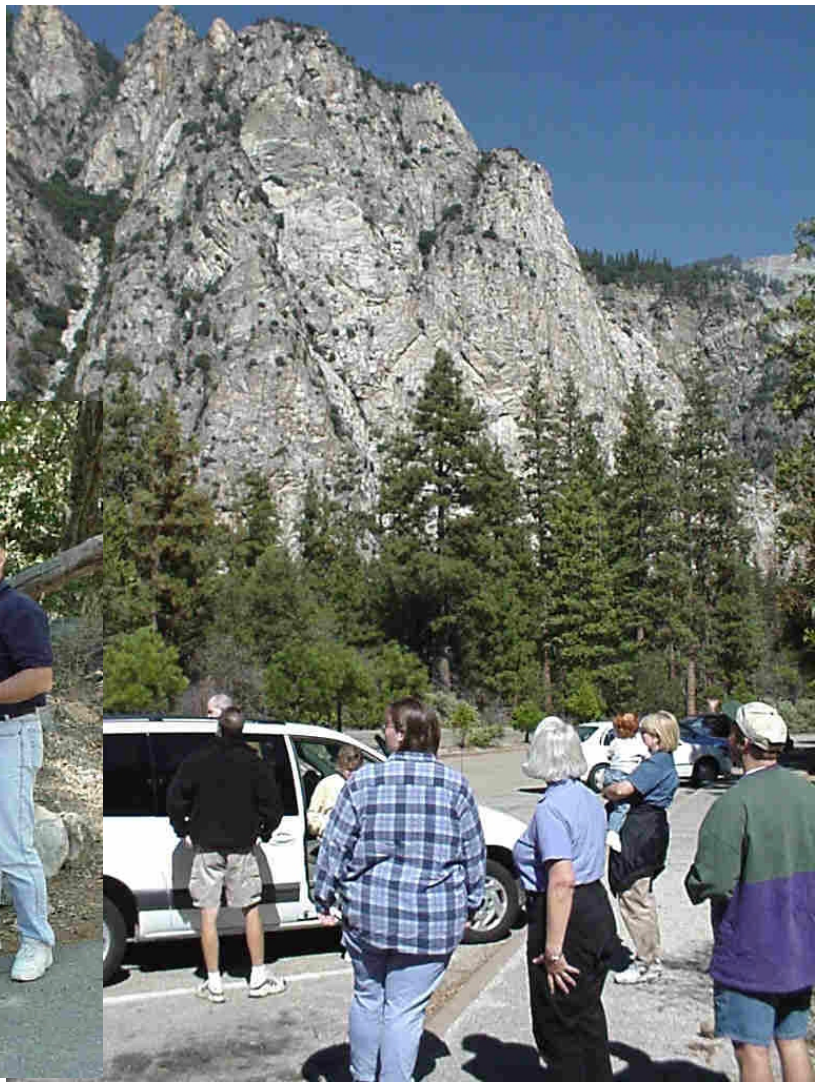
Overnight at the Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley, where the desk clerk greets you with "Welcome to Hell!"

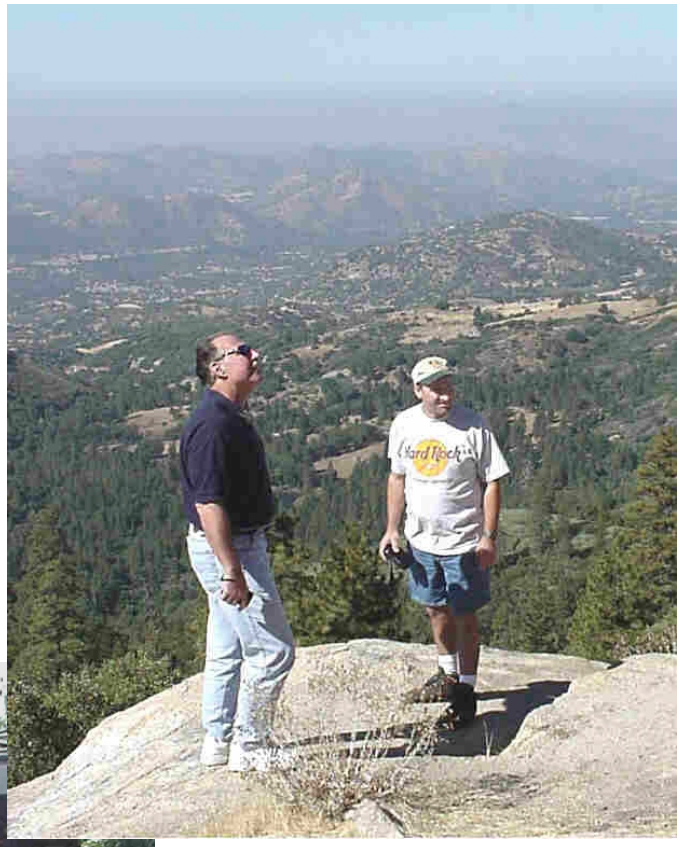






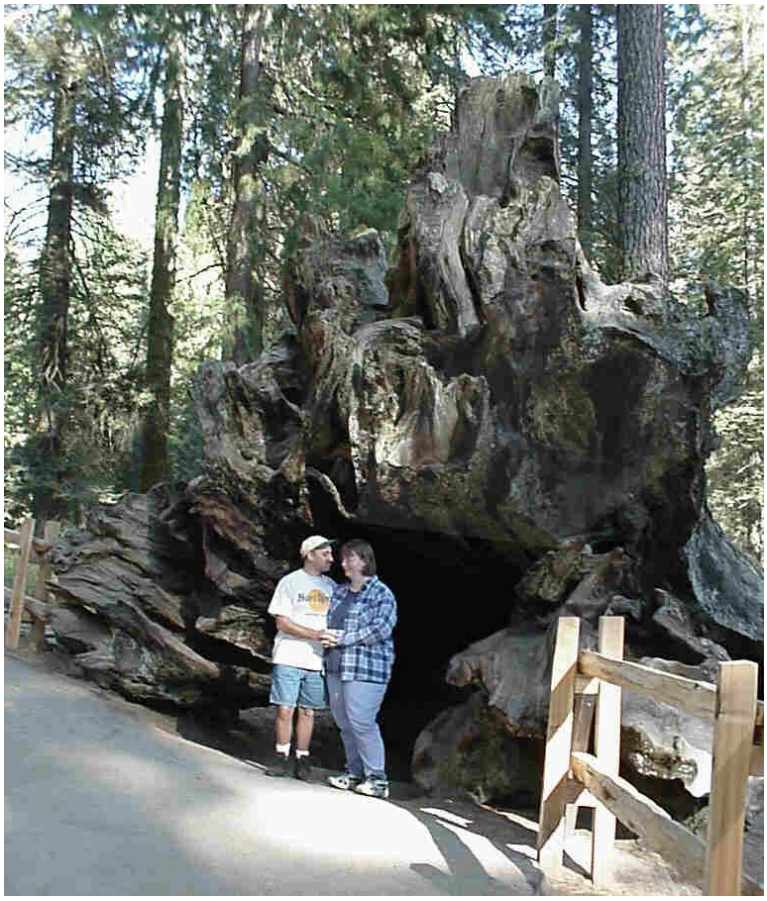






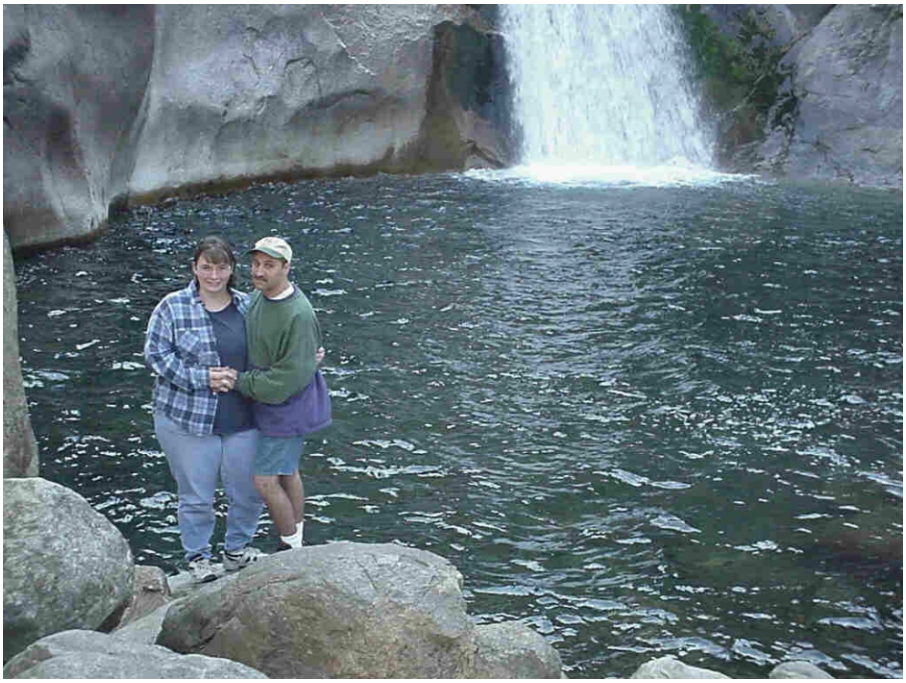
October 7, 1999

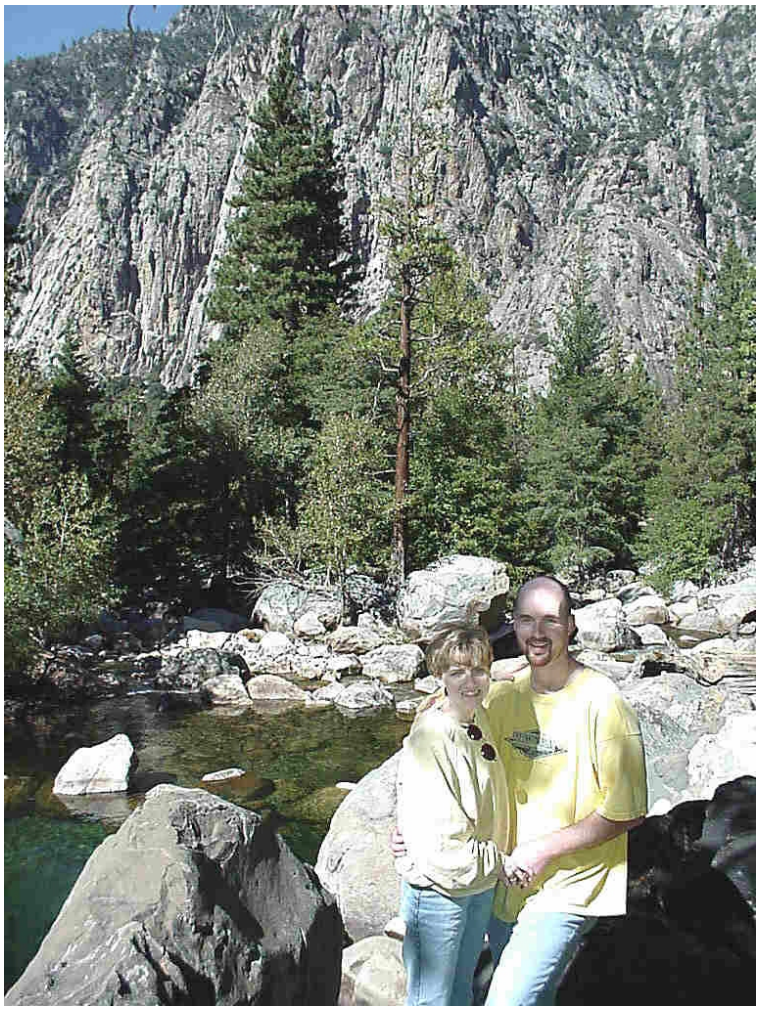
On the way to
King's Canyon National Park

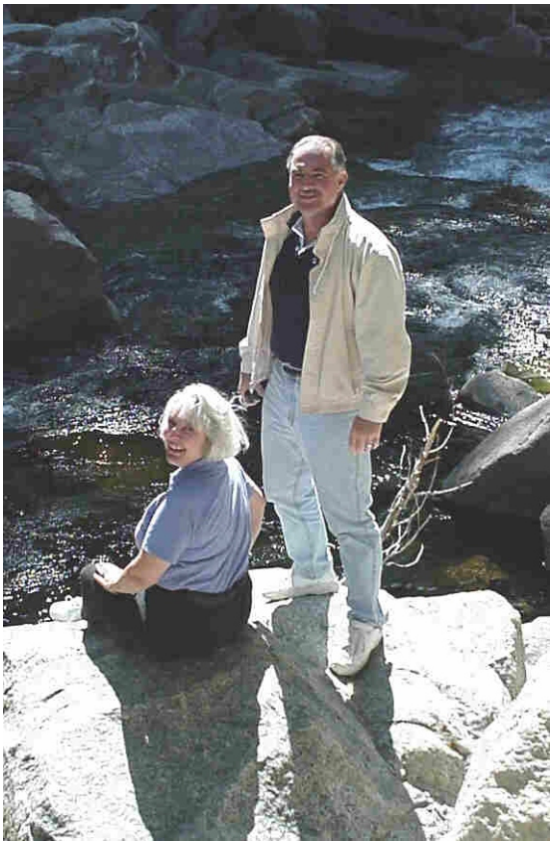


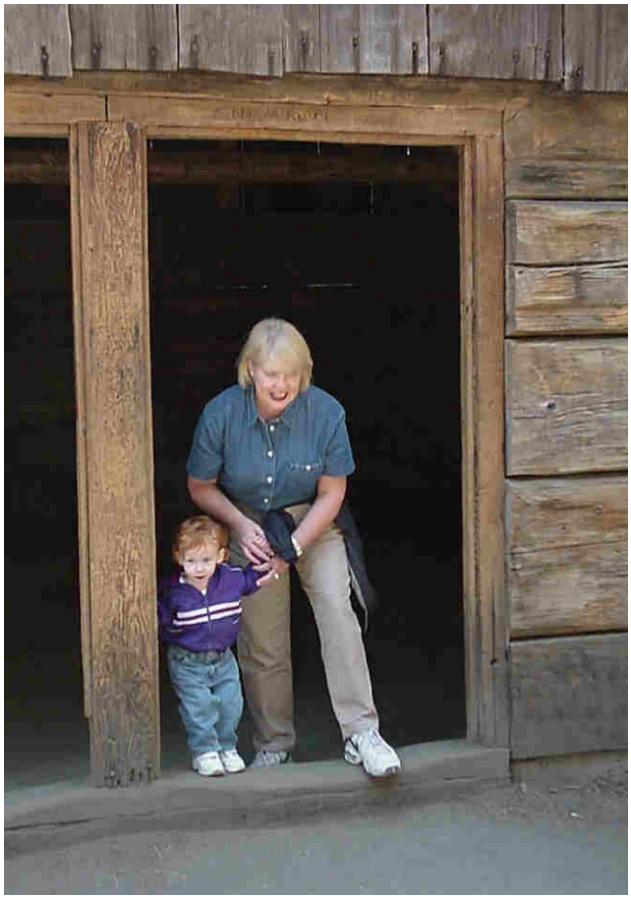
Giant redwoods at King's Canyon National Park

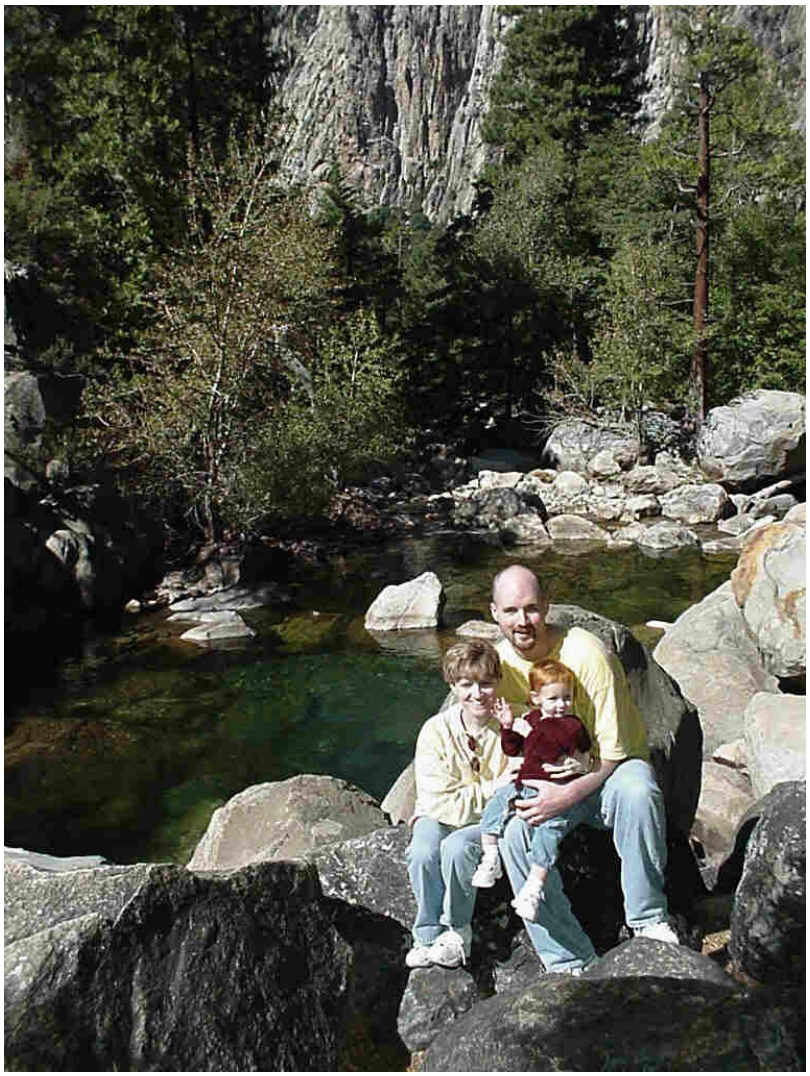
Oct. 7, 1999

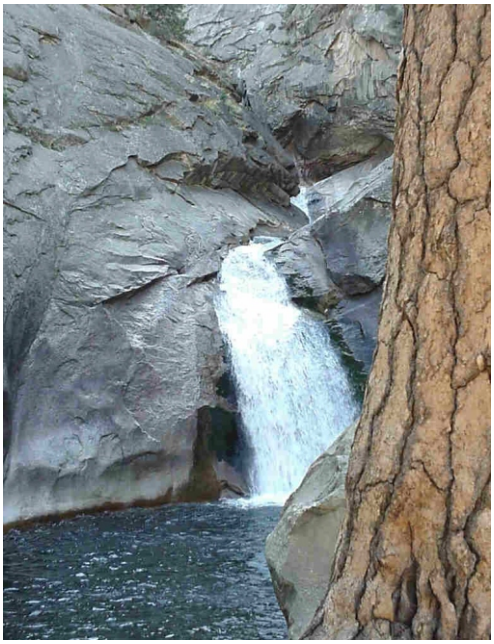










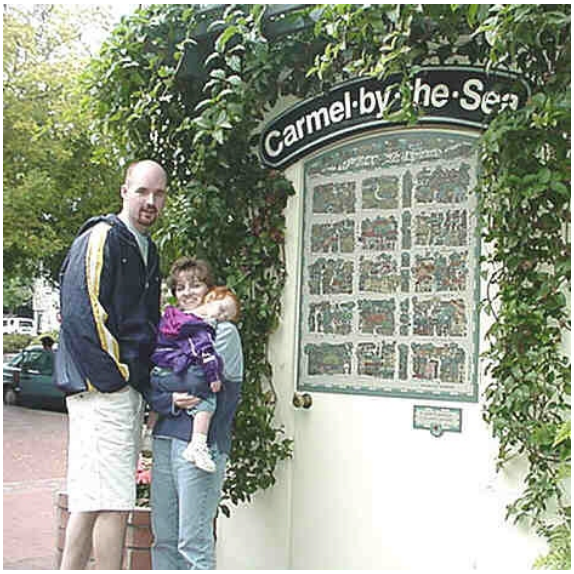


At Marc's house

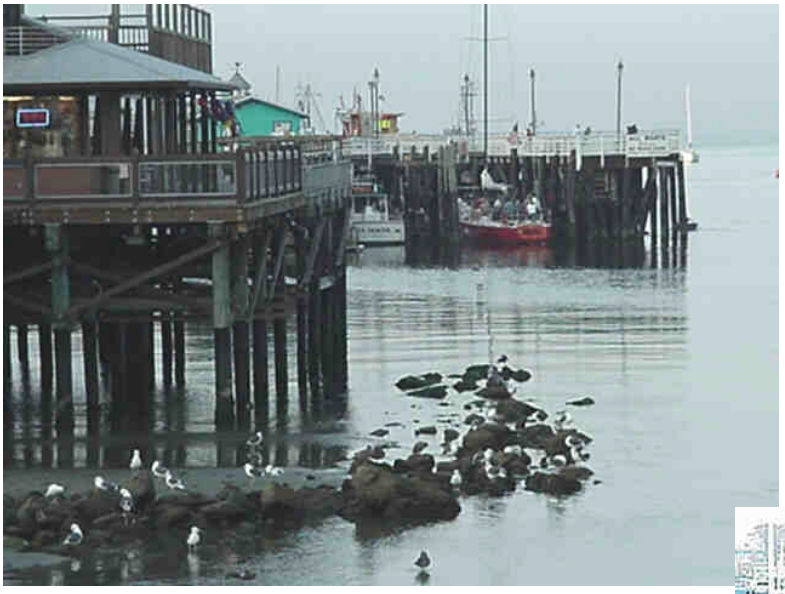
Lover's Point
Pacific Grove
October 11, 1999

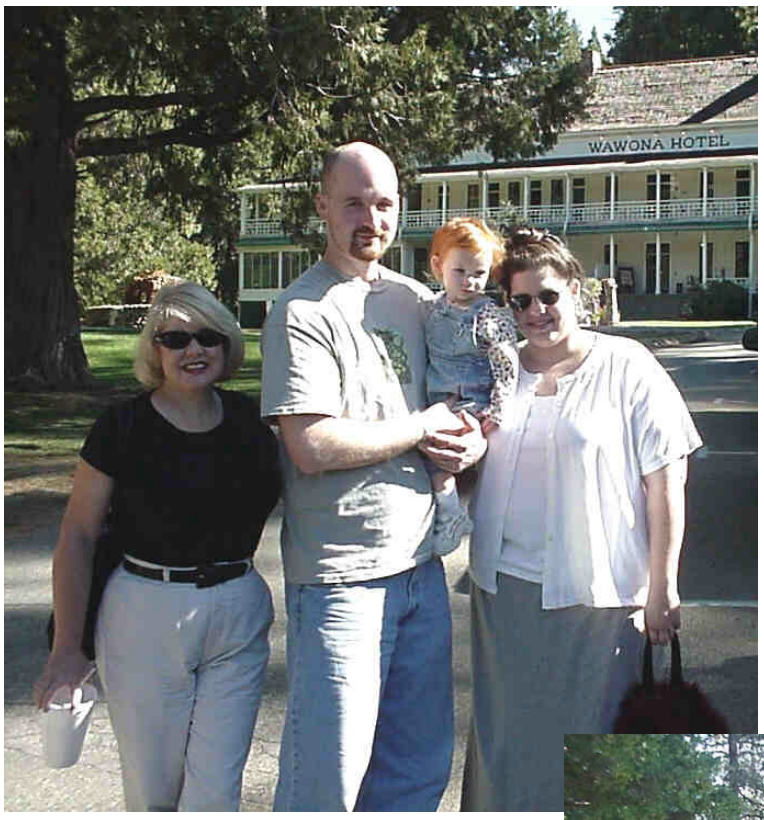
Asilomar Beach
October 11, 1999

Carmel
October 11, 1999

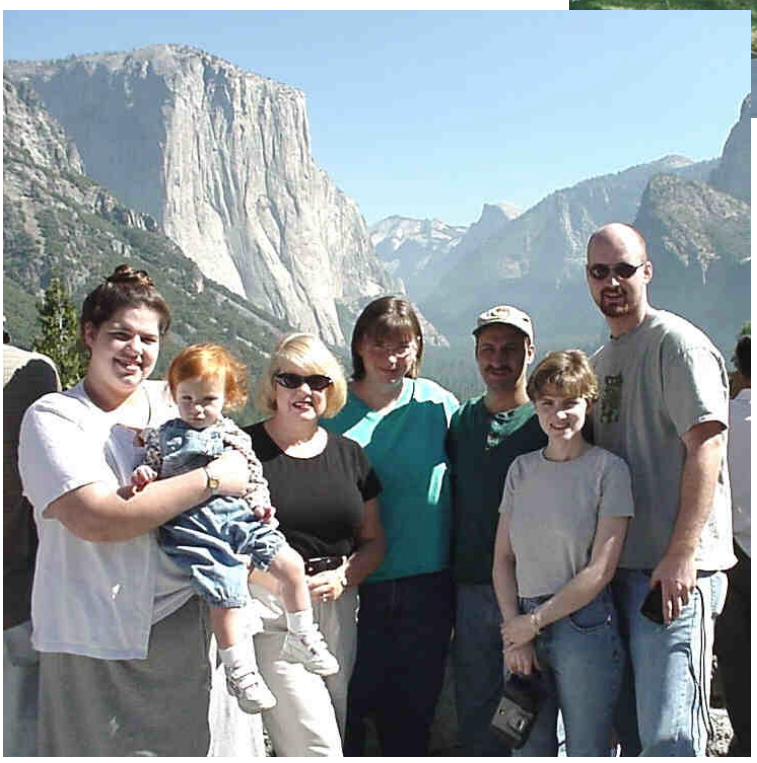


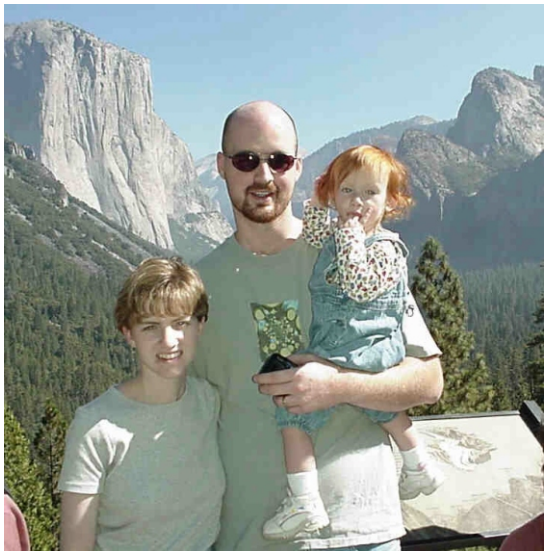
Fisherman's Wharf
Monterey
October 11, 1999

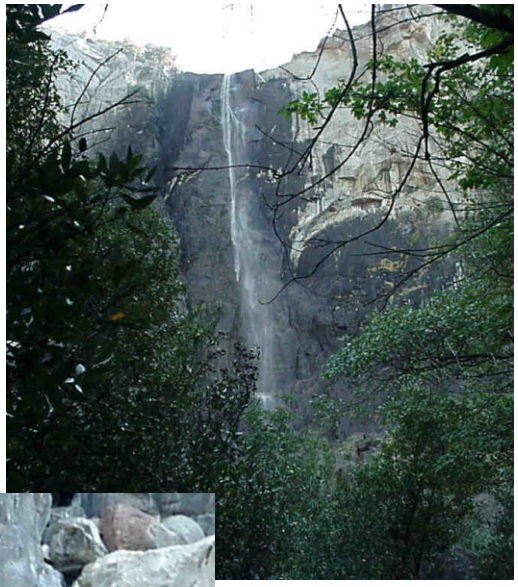




Yosemite National Park
October 9, 1999

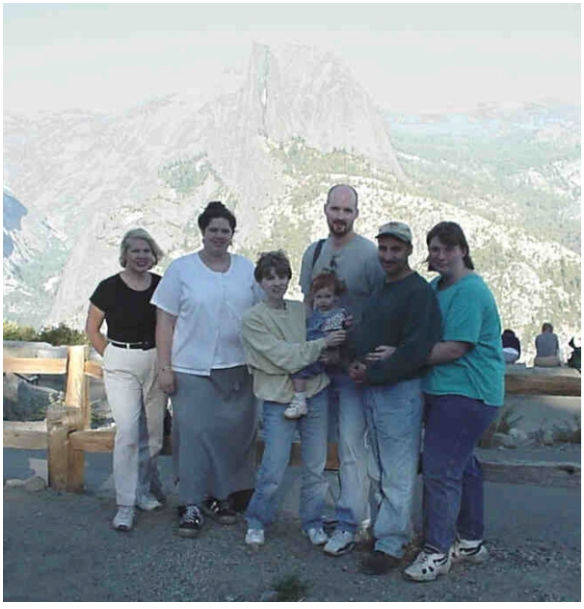


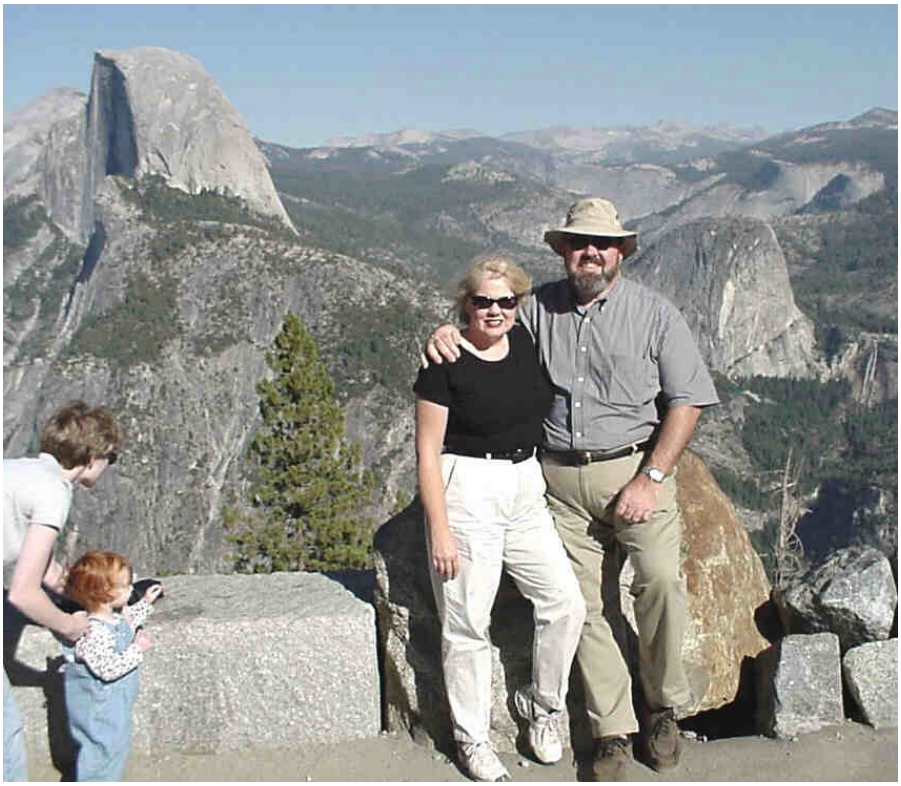




El Capitan

Glacier Point

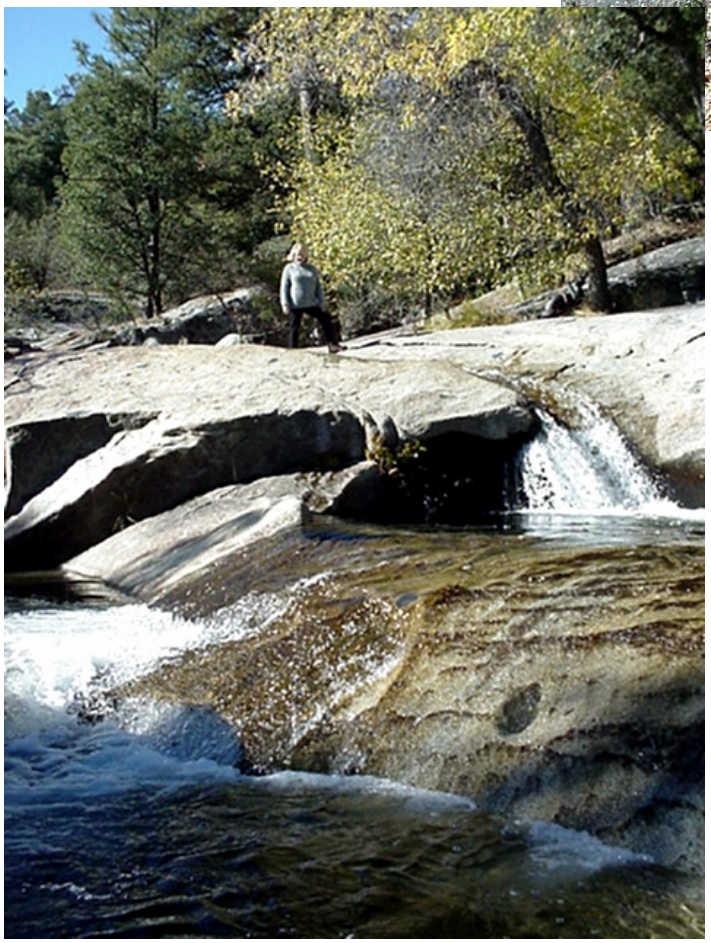


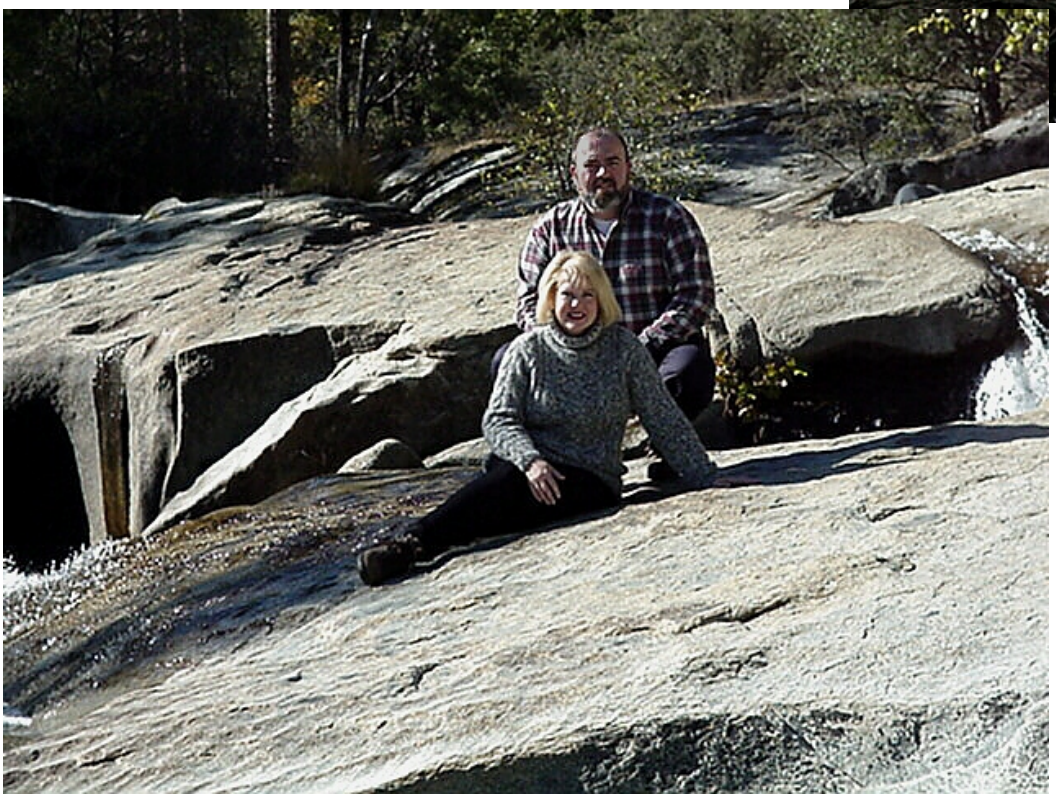


Half Dome from Glacier Point

Wawona Grove
Yosemite National Park
October 9, 1999

November 25, 1999
Hiking near Bass Lake





Christmas 1999

Christmas 1999

Christmas 1999

Christmas 1999

Christmas 1999

Frank & Maria's house
December 26, 1999

Frank & Maria's house
December 26, 1999

Frank & Maria's house
December 26, 1999

Frank & Maria's house
December 26, 1999